United Nations E/2017/SR.49

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
[illegible] September 2017

Original: English

2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 49th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 July 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chartadová (Vice-President) ..... (Czechia)

Contents

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(e) African countries emerging from conflict

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (*continued*)

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(h) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

17-12675 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(e) African countries emerging from conflict (E/2017/68 and E/2017/L.36)

1. **Mr. Cho Tae-yul** (Republic of Korea), Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, briefing the Economic and Social Council on the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in African countries emerging from conflict, said that since the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture in April 2016, the Peacebuilding Commission had convened a number of country-specific and regional meetings, at the request of the countries concerned, the majority of which were in Africa. In addition to country-specific discussions on Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Commission had examined peacebuilding trends and challenges in West Africa and the countries of the Mano River Union. Most recently, it had provided a platform for the Gambia to engage with the international community at a critical time in that country's transition. The Commission had also responded to a request from the Security Council, which had emphasized the importance of the convening role of the Commission in the context of supporting the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel to advance implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

2. In response to the request of the Security Council concerning the Sahel, the Commission had initiated a discussion with relevant partners, in line with its mandate to serve as a bridge between principal organs. The situation in the Sahel was characterized by complex and multifaceted challenges, related not only to security but also to development and humanitarian issues, which required a coherent response from all stakeholders. With a view to achieving that coherence, the Commission had participated in an informal interactive dialogue with the Security Council on 19 June, as well as in the Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission on the Situation in the Sahel, held on 28 June.

3. Leaving no one behind called for a particular focus on countries affected by conflict, because a significant proportion of the extremely poor were living in those countries. That entailed not only addressing the root causes of conflict, but also ensuring that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals benefited marginalized, excluded and difficult-to-reach populations.

4. A number of lessons had emerged out of the recent work of the Commission, which might usefully inform the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council. Firstly, national ownership was key to success. The Commission sought to ensure that Governments, taking into account the needs of all segments of society, took the lead in identifying peacebuilding priorities and strategies, with all national stakeholders sharing responsibility for peace. For example, in Liberia, the Commission had concentrated on supporting the development of the Liberia National Peacebuilding Plan, which benefited from the commitment of a wide range of regional and international partners, including the United Nations, the World Bank and the Economic Community of West African States.

5. Secondly, security, development and human rights were closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Sustainable development could not be realized without peace and security, and vice versa. For instance, the challenges in the Sahel required stakeholders to address not only the security dimension of conflict but also its economic and social causes, such as socioeconomic inequalities, lack of economic opportunity, inequitable access to social services and unemployment. In the Gambia, the Commission was advocating for stronger linkages between transitional justice, security sector reform, national reconciliation and economic development.

6. Thirdly, conflict-affected countries and countries undergoing transitions might require sustained financial, technical and political support from the international community to build strong institutions. At its 2017 annual session, the Peacebuilding Commission had focused on partnerships for financing for peace, in order to address some of the key challenges, as well as innovations, in enabling such critical support. During the session, the Commission and the World Bank had announced that they would hold an annual dialogue to strengthen their partnership and discuss issues of mutual concern.

7. Fourthly, political advocacy and support, and financial and programmatic support, could be mutually reinforcing. The Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund were currently making efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation, for example in Burundi and the Gambia. Such collaboration was beneficial also in addressing cross-border peacekeeping challenges;

the Peacebuilding Fund was one of the few instruments that supported cross-border projects in the Sahel and West Africa more broadly. It was important to continue to use the platform provided by the Commission, as well as other forums, to advocate and provide political support to address cross-border challenges.

8. Fifthly, the growing number of cross-border challenges necessitated stronger transnational collaboration. Violence in one country sometimes spilled over into neighbouring countries, and the effects of violence could often be felt throughout an entire region, making collaboration with regional and subregional organizations important. Such collaboration had featured prominently in the Commission's strategy of engagement, and would be essential in the future. In November 2016, the Chair of the Commission had visited the African Union headquarters to discuss ways to further strengthen collaboration between them.

9. Lastly, peacebuilding had an important gender dimension: women must be seen as enablers of peace and stability, rather than victims of conflict. In September 2016, the Commission had adopted a gender strategy, which would guide its engagement with gender issues. Notably, the Peacebuilding Fund had exceeded its own initial target of allocating 15 per cent of its funds to gender-focused programmes.

10. The Peacebuilding Commission was a unique platform for developing strategic, coherent approaches to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In that regard, he looked forward to strengthening the collaboration between the Economic and Social Council and the Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates, as called for in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2282 (2016).

11. **Mr. Mdoe** (United Nations Resident Coordinator, *ad interim* and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Country Representative in South Sudan), speaking via telephone to introduce the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan by the United Nations system" (E/2017/68), said that the situation in South Sudan continued to be extremely serious. Actors had continued to implement the August 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (Peace Agreement), but it had not been possible to establish and maintain an effective ceasefire, and clashes between armed groups continued. Many parts of the country that had been relatively stable were now affected by violence.

12. The humanitarian crisis had continued to escalate in recent months. An estimated 7.5 million persons, or more than half the population, had needed humanitarian assistance already in 2017, but restrictions on humanitarian access had made it difficult to reach them. More than 3.9 million persons, nearly one in three, had been displaced. The economic situation remained highly challenging: limited government funding was being channelled to the security sector, with no resources left for improvement of social services or investment in development. Livelihoods had been decimated; livestock were being looted, and were ill; diseased crops had been destroyed; and all planting had been delayed. The localized famine in some parts of the country that had been declared in February had eased somewhat due to the robust humanitarian response; however, food insecurity across the country as a whole had reached unprecedented levels. Some 1.7 million persons were on the brink of famine, and 6 million persons were estimated to be severely food insecure. Malnutrition was a major public health emergency. An estimated 350,000 malnourished pregnant women were at high risk of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications, including low birth weight and increased likelihood of infant and maternal deaths.

13. In July, the World Health Organization (WHO) had scaled up its cholera response. Since the June 2016 outbreak, 17,785 cases had been reported, meaning that South Sudan was experiencing the longest and most deadly cholera outbreak since its independence. Access to safe hygiene and clean water had been compromised due to repeated displacements and damaged infrastructure. Some 928,000 malaria cases had been reported since January 2017. Deaths caused by malaria accounted for 77 per cent of all disease-related deaths recorded thus far in 2017. Since the last report to the Economic and Social Council in May, the onset of the rainy season had caused malaria to spread, and the number of cases was expected to increase in the coming months.

14. Despite the limited progress in the overall peace process, the Peace Agreement remained in place as the basic framework for peace, and it continued to be recognized by the parties to the conflict and the international community. The Transitional Government of National Unity had committed to taking further steps towards its implementation and some efforts had been made in recent months. The Government had recently announced its intention to establish a three- to five-year development strategy, in line with the Peace Agreement. It intended to complete the strategy within the next few months to provide a broad, high-level

framework for stabilizing the macroeconomic situation and strengthening governance. Its next step would be to fine-tune the strategy to focus on more detailed planning and priority setting; priorities would include strengthening local services and promoting economic development. Work on the development strategy would be accompanied and supported by a reorganization and reinvigoration of the technical working groups, with participation from relevant government and international actors, and the support of the United Nations country team.

15. On 22 May, the President had officially launched the national dialogue that had been announced in December 2016. The steering committee and the secretariat had begun rolling out the national dialogue process, including through the development of a methodology and a workplan. In line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the United Nations system had prepared to support the dialogue by providing technical assistance and advocacy for the creation of an enabling environment for an inclusive and credible process. The United Nations system would also support the engagement of the wider international community in the dialogue process.

16. While humanitarian action was organized and funded within the framework of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, United Nations support for peacebuilding, recovery and development was guided by the Interim Cooperation Framework of the United Nations country team. The Interim Cooperation Framework had been established in 2015 to enable the United Nations to support South Sudan during the Transitional Period established in the Peace Agreement and to ensure a highly focused approach and accountability for joint actions, and the results of the first year of its implementation had recently been assessed. The government-led work on the new national development strategy, and other efforts being carried out under the Peace Agreement and the revitalization process, including the national dialogue, meant that the United Nations country team must now begin preparations for the new Strategic Cooperation Framework, which would replace the Interim Cooperation Framework after 2018. The new framework would provide the strategic basis for the period after the Peace Agreement and the completion of the national dialogue and, like the Interim Cooperation Framework, would be highly flexible so that it could be adapted to different scenarios.

General discussion

17. **Ms. Atsumi** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that only weeks after the sixth anniversary of its independence, South Sudan remained mired in conflict, with a growing number of armed groups and factions across the country. The South Sudan refugee crisis was the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world: almost 2 million persons were displaced internally and another 2 million had sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The impact of the conflict was intensified by hunger. Furthermore, many of the refugees had already been forcibly displaced before. A people that had endured so much suffering, disappointment and betrayal must not be abandoned. Moreover, amidst its own challenges, South Sudan generously hosted some 272,000 refugees, largely from Sudan, but also from Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

18. Humanitarian actors were currently working together to help millions in South Sudan, despite enormous risks and impediments, and that support must be sustained. Displaced persons needed help to reach safety, establish homes and build futures, although only peace would make sustainable solutions possible. The President of South Sudan had launched a national dialogue on 22 May, and had again declared a unilateral ceasefire and pledged to review the cases of political prisoners. However, while the national dialogue was expected to bring a welcome focus on reconciliation, it would not, in and of itself, result in successful outcomes. All stakeholders must collectively call for an immediate end to hostilities.

19. As the situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate, neighbouring countries were shouldering the weight of the refugee influx. Host communities with their own social, economic and development challenges were generously sharing their resources, land, services and infrastructure with the new arrivals. Regrettably, however, their hospitality was not matched by financial contributions from the international community. For example, the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan was funded at just 20 per cent. Disturbing shortfalls were emerging in critical areas such as food, shelter and education. While host countries continued to uphold fundamental values and contribute to stability, international support must be stepped up.

20. The leaders of South Sudan, Member States in the region and the international community as a whole should make more decisive and inclusive peace efforts. All warring parties in the areas in South Sudan hosting refugees and internally displaced persons should respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of refugees and internally displaced persons. All parties must heed the warning signs, and prevent the

conflict from spiralling into full-blown inter-ethnic warfare. The conditions for overall freedom of movement, and in particular for secure and safe passage for displaced persons, as well as free movement of humanitarian actors and assistance, must be put in place to ensure that refugees and internally displaced persons could receive much-needed relief aid. The courage and resilience of refugees and internally displaced persons must be nurtured and the extraordinary generosity of host communities must be reinforced.

21. **Ms. Kovacs** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that an estimated 6 million persons in South Sudan were expected to be severely food insecure in June-July, compared to 5.5 million in May. Out of that 6 million, an estimated 1.7 million were likely to experience a food security emergency, which was one step away from famine on the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification scale.

22. Of greatest concern were the enormous number of displaced persons; the severe disruption to agricultural activities, which jeopardized livelihoods; the disruption of markets and access to humanitarian assistance; the continuing devaluation of the local currency; and the high likelihood of the second planting season being missed, which would probably result in a record-high national cereal deficit in 2018.

23. Thus far in 2017, FAO had reached over 3.6 million persons with crop, fishing and vegetable kits. In the remainder of 2017, it would target a further 1.8 million persons for emergency livelihoods assistance. FAO was distributing rapid response kits in areas that were in phases four and five on the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification scale, targeting 510,000 persons. Pre-positioning of inputs for second-season planting in the Greater Equatoria region was under way; the inputs would be ready for distribution before August. Over 3.1 million animals had been vaccinated or treated as part of the FAO animal health programme, and some 5 million animals were being targeted in 2017.

24. However, there were major challenges. Security and staff safety remained a concern in many areas, affecting distribution and necessitating air transport in some cases. Fighting in some of the country's main crop-producing areas was threatening the 2017 harvest. Lastly, more funding was needed to enable FAO to continue its rapid response distributions and begin planning and pre-positioning for the dry season.

25. She emphasized that in carrying out its activities, FAO attached equal importance to food security analysis, its life- and livelihood-saving humanitarian response, and resilience-building programmes designed to integrate humanitarian and development priorities. Investing in the livelihoods and resilience of food producers was vital to creating peaceful and stable societies, as well as being a critical element of immediate responses to emergency situations.

26. **Mr. Mollihi-Watson** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the situation in South Sudan continued to impact women and men, and girls and boys, differently. The patriarchal structure contributed to girls being married at younger and younger ages, including to escape sexual violence and poverty. Women were at greater risk of violence and displacement, and their responsibilities for household food security were more difficult than ever because they often had to feed additional persons, such as orphans or elderly family members. Gender-responsive and targeted humanitarian services were lacking.

27. Greater efforts were needed to ensure that women in South Sudan were treated as agents of change and empowered to assist in humanitarian efforts, rather than as victims and passive beneficiaries. In that connection, he welcomed initiatives to offer leadership and mobilization training to women in camps for internally displaced persons. UN-Women would continue to work to ensure that South Sudanese women could fully participate in humanitarian and all other decision-making.

28. UN-Women would continue its work to enhance targeted and gender-responsive humanitarian support, which would include the establishment of a humanitarian cluster on gender equality and the empowerment of women; the provision of gender-mainstreaming support, including capacity-building for organizations subcontracted to provide direct support to internally displaced persons and refugees; the conduct of regular assessments of socioeconomic profiles of internally displaced women, with a view to understanding underlying vulnerabilities and emerging needs; the development of a Gender Accountability Mechanism through which women could provide feedback on the services they received; the provision to internally displaced women and girls of skills training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and training in entrepreneurship and income-generation, leadership, networking and peacebuilding; and the engagement of young men in deconstructing masculinities and working to end sexual violence against women.

29. **Ms. Khan** (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that health was a cross-cutting component of humanitarian, peace and development work. It was essential to guarantee universal health coverage and build resilient health systems. In South Sudan, WHO was seeking both to provide basic health services and to ensure that health systems were strong and capable of dealing with future outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

30. Coordination between partners and different sectors was vital; the integrated and comprehensive approach to cholera in South Sudan included case management, improvement of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, health promotion, risk communication and community engagement, surveillance, patient care and complementary use of oral cholera vaccines. The National Cholera Task Force, co-chaired by WHO, had brought cholera transmission under control in many of the severely affected areas. WHO was working with the Ministry of Health and other partners to scale up the cholera response with a vaccination campaign, which would run from 28 July to 3 August.

31. With some 6 million persons in South Sudan on the brink of starvation, WHO and partners were responding across the country, particularly in places where inhabitants faced famine, food insecurity and outbreaks of disease. Starvation and malnutrition would further increase the risk of cholera spreading. The population's use of contaminated water in the midst of drought was also causing repeated outbreaks of waterborne diseases, including cholera. Investment in health systems and other social service infrastructure was essential if sustainable peace and development were to become realities.

Draft decision E/2017/L.36: African countries emerging from conflict

32. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

33. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (*continued*) (E/2017/77 and E/2017/L.28)

34. **Mr. Blanchard** (Observer for Canada), Chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, introduced the draft resolution entitled "Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti" contained in document E/2017/L.28, in which the Council would welcome the annual report of the Advisory Group, contained in document E/2017/77, and the recommendations contained therein, and decide to extend the mandate of the Advisory Group for another year. He said that the Bahamas, Benin, Colombia, El Salvador and Mexico had joined the sponsors already listed.

35. Introducing the report of the Advisory Group, he said that during its visits to Washington, D.C. and Haiti, the Group had witnessed major efforts by Haitians to guarantee their country's future development and prosperity. The recent elections and installation of a new Government were important milestones which created an opportunity for the country to make sustainable development progress, at last. The new Government, and, to a greater extent, the international community, should use that fragile window of opportunity to ensure that Haiti underwent a real transition, ceasing to be a recipient of humanitarian aid and embarking on a path of sustainable development. Haiti continued to face a host of challenges that affected its socioeconomic development, which it should address quickly and effectively, with ongoing support from the United Nations and the international community.

36. The Group's recommendations included encouraging the Government to take the leading role in national development and to carry out urgent reforms in critical sectors, including public administration and justice. The international community should ensure that it provided more stable and predictable financing to Haiti, and that its efforts were coordinated, as well as aligned with the priorities of the national Government. Lastly, the Group encouraged the United Nations to strengthen its coordination. United Nations presence on the ground should be reviewed to determine the best possible composition of the country team based on the country's needs and the new focus on long-term development. The shift from humanitarian and security work to development work might require a change in the United Nations entities involved and the human resources in each of those entities.

37. Over the past year, the Group had focused on sustainable economic development. If Haiti was to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals, more must be done to tap into its immense economic potential. In addition, replacement of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) must be responsible and inclusive; the United Nations must work to dispel the idea that the departure of its Stabilization Mission effectively signified the departure of the Organization as a whole from Haiti. Lastly, the response by the United Nations to the cholera epidemic had been called into question on various occasions. The epidemic was not only a barrier to the country's future prosperity,

but was also associated by many with the United Nations presence on the ground. Therefore, proper implementation of the Secretary-General's new approach to cholera, and Member States' support for the leadership of the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, were crucial.

38. There was currently a great opportunity to make sustainable, long-term development in Haiti a reality; the international community should lose no time in supporting the national Government and the people of Haiti in order to take advantage of that critical moment in the country's history.

39. **Mr. Vincent** (United Nations Resident Coordinator, Officer-in-Charge and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Haiti), speaking via video link from Port-au-Prince to brief the Economic and Social Council on the situation in Haiti, said that social inequalities in the country remained high, with the most pronounced gaps those between rural and urban areas. Haiti ranked 138 out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index and there were serious gender disparities in terms of control of resources and overall equality; the level of violence against women and girls was also of concern.

40. Notwithstanding, there had been some significant signs of progress. On 1 May, the President had launched the flagship development programme Caravane du changement (Caravan for Change). The programme was the backbone of the Government's strategy to promote revitalization of the agricultural, environmental and transport sectors, as well as to improve national production and living conditions. Caravane du changement had been expanded to incorporate projects in the social sector, including in the areas of rehabilitation, education and health care, as well as water and sanitation projects.

41. Another positive development had been the submission, on 30 June, of the draft budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration and vote. The new budget represented an increase of 22 per cent over the previous year; it was hoped that, under it, more funds would be allocated to public works, agriculture, education, public health and defence. Cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of the new Government thus far had resulted in the first joint legislative package in 10 years, which was an encouraging indicator of progress. However, it was a crucial moment in the country's history, and the Government must move from rhetoric to action and implement reforms. Proposals for reform of the health care system and the petroleum sector were a promising step towards the adjustment of budget priorities.

42. The humanitarian situation remained critical and complex. The population in the areas affected by Hurricane Matthew, which had struck in October 2016, remained vulnerable. Persons from the Dominican Republic continued to move across the border; since June, approximately 126,000 Dominican households had been registered. While there had been significant progress in reducing the number of suspected cholera cases, securing funding for the ongoing cholera elimination efforts was critical to sustaining that progress. A recent Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification had shown that approximately 2.3 million persons remained food insecure, including 660,000 persons in the critical emergency stage. There were 46,000 internally displaced persons at 31 designated sites. The hurricane season had begun and more storms than normal were expected; the President had launched preparations to ensure that the public and private sectors were ready to respond to potential hurricanes.

43. On 16 June, the Comité de l'Efficacité de l'Aide, which served as a forum for discussion on aid effectiveness, had met after a hiatus of three years. In another positive development, the main national sectoral bodies had begun their sessions; it was particularly important that the health sector body was meeting. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework signed on 30 June would cover the 2017-2021 period. It was based on the Sustainable Development Goals and aligned with the National Development Plan.

44. In conclusion, there had been some progress, but much remained to be done. Ensuring the passage of key national laws and the smooth transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH, reinforcing coordination mechanisms at the national and departmental levels, and improving and supporting accountability and results-based management in relation to government planning would be top priorities. Lastly, continued investment in the social sector was needed.

45. **Mr. Saint-Hilaire** (Observer for Haiti) said that in Haiti, political and institutional stability, better living conditions and sustainable development were all interrelated. Work must be carried out holistically, not in silos, in order to achieve progress on all those fronts, and that included greater coherence in the support provided by the United Nations. The new Haitian administration wanted to respond urgently to the economic and social challenges discussed in the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, but it had very

limited financial resources. Major reforms were envisioned or already under way in the areas of education, health, agriculture and social services. The Government expected that all development partners would contribute to its efforts.

46. In relation to section II.B of the report on moving towards a more secure and sustainable future, the Government hoped to collaborate with the United Nations on reforming the public administration, strengthening productive capacity, modernizing the energy sector, building essential infrastructure, modernizing transport and water and sanitation services, and protecting the environment. It was worth noting that under the Caravane du changement programme launched in May, easier access to water for irrigation would support increased national production.

47. With regard to his country's high degree of dependency on remittances (para. 40 of the report), he referred to the informal thematic session entitled "Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits", held the day before as part of the preparatory process for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference in 2018. The rights of Haitians living abroad must be respected in their host countries; indeed, ensuring that respect was one of his Government's foreign policy priorities. As remittances were a reliable and unconditional source of financing for Haiti, his Government counted on the pleas of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and other partners that any decisions taken on the status of migrants in host countries did not compromise that source of financing and were taken in a coherent manner, in keeping with the United Nations approach to international migration since 2015.

48. His Government attached great importance to coherence and coordination among development partners, addressed in section III of the report. With regard to the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report, his Government did not currently envision requesting support from the Peacebuilding Commission but if it did make such a request in the future, all relevant partners would be consulted first. Lastly, his Government requested that a one-day conference on the long-term development of Haiti should be convened in September 2018, with the participation of the international community. The purpose of the event would be to conduct a detailed evaluation of progress, and to develop concrete proposals for a long-term programme of aid and for the sustainable development of Haiti.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.28: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

49. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council), delivering a statement on programme budget implications in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, said that, should the draft resolution be adopted, it was estimated that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would consist of travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and two staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to meet with the international financial institutions and the Organization of American States in 2018 and undertake a mission to Haiti in the same year.

50. The total resource requirements for the consultative missions to Haiti and Washington, D.C. in 2018 were estimated at $39,000, for which provision had not been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019. It was, however, expected that those requirements would be met within the resources approved under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

51. With respect to paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, in which the Secretary-General was requested to continue to support the Group's activities adequately and within existing resources, the Council's attention was also drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 70/247, in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

52. He said that Rwanda and Trinidad and Tobago had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

53. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.28 was adopted.*

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (*continued*) (A/72/16 and E/2017/55)

54. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2016, contained in document E/2017/55, and of the report of the fifty-seventh session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, contained in document A/72/16.

55. *It was so decided.*

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6)

56. **The President** said that five programmes had been open to the Committee for Programme and Coordination: political affairs; trade and development; human settlements; management and support services; and safety and security. Two of the five programmes had programmatic changes that related to recent substantive changes, in particular, in section 12 on trade and development and in section 15 on human settlements of document A/72/6. She proposed that the Council should take note of the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, as contained in the aforementioned document.

57. *It was so decided.*

(h) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields (E/2017/78, E/2017/L.20 and E/2017/L.30)

Draft resolution E/2017/L.30: Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

58. **The President** said that, in a letter dated 27 June 2017 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council, which had been circulated in document E/2017/78, the Committee had recommended to the Council the adoption of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2018 and 2019, contained in document E/2017/L.20. Following consultations with the Bureau, the President of the Council had submitted a draft resolution entitled "Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields", contained in document E/2017/L.30.

59. **Ms. Raadik** (Estonia), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that nothing in the draft resolution on the calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields should be interpreted as prejudging any of the forthcoming discussions and decisions to be made regarding the work of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 to be held during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. Necessary adjustments to the arrangements currently foreseen should be made if required by the negotiations in the General Assembly.

60. The provisional calendar of conferences for 2018 and 2019 contained in document E/2017/L.20 had originally proposed that the Development Cooperation Forum should be held in May 2018, well in advance of the high-level political forum for sustainable development. The European Union and its member States had welcomed that decision in the belief that the Development Cooperation Forum should take place before the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up — and if that was not logistically possible, then at the very least before the high-level political forum. The discussions conducted in the Development Cooperation Forum were an important input to the high-level political forum, as had been recognized in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 70/299. The European Union and its member States had consequently been dismayed to receive a second document with provisional meeting dates that had scheduled the Development Cooperation Forum for 16 and 17 July 2018, in between the expert and high-level segments of the high-level political forum. As that proposal was not acceptable, she asked for further clarification on the matter.

61. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

62. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.30 was adopted.*

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (*continued*) (A/72/114-E/2017/75)

63. **The President** said that at its 42nd meeting, the Council had considered the report of the 2017 session of the forum on financing for development follow-up and decided to transmit the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum to the high-level political form on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council at its 2017 session.

64. She proposed that the Council should take note of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the forum on financing for development follow-up, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, contained in document A/72/114-E/2017/75.

65. *It was so decided.*

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (*continued*) (A/72/75-E/2017/56; A/72/63-E/2017/11; E/2017/L.25 and E/2017/L.32)

Draft resolutions E/2017/L.25 and E/2017/L.32: Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

66. **The President** drew the Council's attention to draft resolution E/2017/L.32, which she had submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/2017/L.25. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

67. **Mr. Altinörs** (Turkey), facilitator, expressed appreciation for the consensus that had been reached on the draft resolution.

68. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.32 was adopted.*

69. **Mr. Kimmel** (United States of America) said that his delegation dissociated itself from the reference to technology transfer contained in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. For the United States, such language would have no standing in future negotiations. The United States would continue to oppose language that it believed undermined intellectual property rights.

70. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.25 was withdrawn.*

71. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system, contained in document A/72/75-E/2017/56, and of the note by the Secretary-General on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, contained in document A/72/63-E/2017/11.

72. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*) (E/2017/L.31)

Draft resolution E/2017/L.31: Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session

73. *The President* said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

74. **Mr. Muchka** (Czechia), facilitator, expressed gratitude to Council members for their constructive contributions and flexibility, which had helped to narrow gaps in their positions.

75. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.31 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.